

Serial No. **10/747,945**

Docket No. **HI-0177**

Amdt. dated July 31, 2007

Reply to Office Action of May 2, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 and 20-29 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 20, and 26 are amended, and claims 13-19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 6, 10, 14, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 14 and 17-18 have been canceled. The rejection is respectfully traversed in so far as it applies to claims 6 and 10.

The Examiner asserts that “the specification lack[s] some standard for measuring the degree intended.” However, the Examiner is directed to paragraph [0028] of the present application which specifically states that the lens has a focusing distance of about $11.8 \pm 1\text{mm}$ and an image pickup distance range of about 20-70 cm. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-13, 15-16, and 20-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wada et al. (hereinafter “Wada”), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0191076 in view of Kato et al. (hereinafter “Kato”), U.S. Patent No. 6,161,583. Claims 13 and 15-16 have been canceled. The rejection is respectfully traversed in so far as it applies to the remaining claims.

The Examiner asserts that Wada discloses all of the claimed features except “a driving barrel configured to support a lens; [and] a moving unit configured to reciprocatingly move the driving barrel to perform both focus and zoom operations.” The Examiner then asserts that “Kato teaches a lens barrel movable between an imaging position and a retracted position that is closer to the body of the camera than the imaging position and a barrel position restraint means which permits the movement of the lens barrel when the lens barrel moves to the imaging position or the retracted position and which restrains the movement of the lens barrel in the direction of the optical axis when the lens barrel has reached the imaging position.” The Examiner then asserts that “it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Wada’s iris recognition camera with Kato’s moveable lens barrel by mounting the moveable lens barrel where the wide-angle lens is positioned on the iris imaging apparatus, so that upon detection of a user based on the range finder, the controller can position the wide-angle lens camera by either tilting the wide-angle lens left or right, or moving the drive barrel backward or forward not only to obtain the image of the person whose iris is being imaged, but also have the ability of iris imaging by the wide-angle lens based on the zooming capabilities of Kato, furthermore two sets of lens can be used for either wide-angle or telephoto purposes therefore, the telephotographic lens can also be moved into Kato’s lens barrel.”

However, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, a position sensor configured to detect the position of the driving barrel within the camera. Neither Wada nor

Kato discloses such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1. That is, the Examiner refers to the range finder 24 disclosed by Wada as corresponding to the claimed position sensor. However, the range finder 24 irradiates infrared rays in order to detect the presence of an object. The range finder 24 does not detect a position of the driving barrel within the camera.

Further, neither Wada nor Kato provides any motivation for the Examiner's proposed combination. Thus, it is clear that the combination is based on impermissible hindsight gleaned from Applicant's own disclosure.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Wada and Kato should be withdrawn.

Independent claim 20 has been amended to recite a method of operation for an iris recognition camera, comprising detecting a user, moving a camera lens to an initial position detected by a position sensor after the position sensor detects the user, thereafter moving the camera lens from the initial position to an image pickup location where a user's iris can be captured, and performing the image pickup using an image pickup device. Neither Wada nor Kato taken alone or in combination discloses or suggests all of such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 20. That is, neither Wada nor Kato, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests at least moving a camera lens to an initial position detected by a position sensor after the position sensor detects a user, and thereafter moving the camera lens

from the initial position to an image pickup location where a user's iris can be captured, in particular, in combination with the other claimed features.

Further, neither Wada nor Kato provides any motivation for the Examiner's proposed combination. Thus, it is clear that the combination is based on impermissible hindsight gleaned from Applicant's own disclosure.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 20 over Wada and Kato should be withdrawn.

With respect to independent claim 26, Wada and Kato, taken alone or in a combination fail to disclose or suggest a method of operation for an iris recognition camera, comprising turning on power of an iris recognition camera, moving the lens to an initial position, detecting a user, capturing an iris image of the user by moving the lens from the initial position to a location where the iris image is focused, and storing a current of the lens. Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 26 over Wada and Kato should be withdrawn.

Dependent claim 2-5, 7-9, 11-12, 21-25, and 27-29 are allowable over Wada and Kato at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1, 20, and 26, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 6, 17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wada in view of Kato and further in view of Abe, U.S. Patent No. 6,747,814. Claims 17 and 19 have been canceled. The rejection is respectfully traversed in so far as it applies to claim 6.

Dependent claim 6 is allowable over Wada and Kato at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for its added features. Abe fails to overcome the deficiencies of Wada and Kato, as it is merely cited for allegedly teaching a wide-angle lens having a focusing distance of about $11.8 \pm 1\text{mm}$. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 6 over Wada, Kato, and Abe should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wada in view of Kato and further in view of Oda et al. (hereinafter “Oda”), U.S. Patent No. 6,850,631. Claim 14 has been canceled. The rejection is respectfully traversed in so far as it applies to claim 10.

Dependent claim 10 is allowable over Wada and Kato at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for its added features. Oda fails to overcome the deficiencies of Wada and Kato, as it is merely cited for allegedly teaching an image pickup distant range of about 20 to 70 cm. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 10 over Wada, Kato, and Oda should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wada in view of Kato and Abe and further in view of Oda. Claim 18 has been canceled, and thus the rejection is moot.

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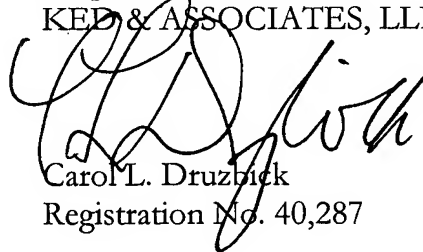
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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